(e) if so, the salient objectives envisaged therein;

(f) whether any review of the status of its implementation has been carried out; and

(g) if so, State/UT-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The three basic objectives are, namely, Survey and Inventorisation of Marine Flora and Fauna, Training and Capacity Building and Establishment of the Database Network. At present, 17 projects have been approved in all for Conservation of Coastal & Marine Biodiversity. The Research, Conservation & Management of Mangroves & Coral Reefs are also supported under Schemes specifically designed to promote conservation of these two marine resources.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991, declares coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters, which are influnced by tidal action (in the landwide side) up to 500 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL) and the land between the Low Time Line (LTL) and the High Tide Line as Coastal Regulation Zone. The Notification regulates all developmental activities in the CRZ area.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone was reviewed in the National Workshop on 'Coastal Regulation Notification, 1991' held in Chennai in June, 2004 and also by the Expert Committee constituted under Prof. M.S. Swaminathan In July, 2004.

All 13 Coastal States/Union Territories namely, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Orissa, West Bengal and Pondicherry has sought assistance for strengthening of the existing capacity, infrastructure development, adequate financial outlay for preparing the revised Coastal Zone Management Plans, for preparation of Integrated Zone Management Plans and for initiating awareness and training programmes.

Excessive use of Chemcial Fertilizers

† 3916. SHRI JAYANTI LAL BAROT: will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ill-effects of excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on agricultural land and rural health;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the area of cultivable land of the country which has become barren due to this reasons; and

(c) to what extent the quantum of harmful chemicals in water sources of the rural areas is higher than the safe level; the details thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA); (a) to (b) The average consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are 89.8 kg/h and 0.22 kg/ha respectively. This level of consumption is not considered to have ill-effect on agriculture. However, the Government is advocating "Integrated Nutrient Management" (INM) by promoting balanced and judicious use of chemcial fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures depending on soil quality, bio-fertilizers, etc. Government is also advocating organic farming by using organic inputs for plant nutrients.

Desertification monitoring and assessment

† 3917. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken desertification monitoring and assessment in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such information is used to evolve suitable strategies to arrest desertification; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAiN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A pilot project titled "Desertification Status Mapping" has been assigned to the Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad. The mapping process utilises Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data on 1:50,000 sacle adopting a three level classification based on:—

(i) landuse/land cover

(ii) process of degradation

(iii) severity of degradation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.